(a) whether Government has taken steps to stop illegal remuneration to physicians and healthcare provides in the form of consulting fees and other inducements, being offered by pharma companies to promote their products;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Certain media reports in the recent past highlighted certain such practices resorted by some of the Pharma companies to promote their products to the medical practitioners. This Department had taken up the matter with the associations and the representatives of Pharmaceuticals companies and emphasized upon them to formulate guidelines/code of ethics and set mechanism for strict enforcement for dealing with the delinquency and for informing the public as to what steps have been taken to remove this perception as highlighted by the print media.

Shortage of fertilizers

581. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while the country has ample stock of Urea, Phosphatic and Potassic fertilizers are in short supply and that we are dependent for these fertilizers on imports, either in raw materials or intermediate products or finished products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) The availability of Urea, DAP and MOP in the country has been adequate against the assessed requirement / sales, despite limited resources of Phosphates, no viable resources of Potash and dependency on import of the intermediates like Phosphoric Acid / Sulphuric Acid etc. for indigenous manufacturing of DAP and NPK. The availability of Urea, DAP and MOP is comfortable despite above constraints. There is some tightness in availability of complex fertilizers (NPK) because of low level of indigenous production and also as these can not be imported.

The cumulative requirement, availability and sales of Urea, DAP and MOP during the year 2008-09 (April, 2008 to January, 2009) has been as under:

(figures in lakh metric tonnes)

All India	Product	Requirement	Availability			Sales to state agency/ dealers/ stockiest
			Indigenous	Imports	Total	
	Urea	253.99	177.79	54.08	231.87	226.26
	DAP	88.23	32.29	60.05	92.34	91.98
	MOP	33.00	–	37.16	37.16	35.06
	NPK	84.11	65.69	–	65.69	64.47

Unfair practice of pharma companies

582. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state: